

Dear Sargh,

I received about the same time your letter from England and Jonothan's letter from Australia with the news that you are going to get married Beginning November, and all my best wishes for you both! That it may be for the benefit of making the Dhamma known that you join forces, thus we will have two 'souls' of the Dhamma study group in Australia. What I appreciated in both your letters was a growing understanding how events in life are conditioned and how they work out so totally different from how we had planned things. I also appreciate your kusala cittas, wanting to help the Dhamma friends as much as possible while you are still in England. That For the benefit of someone else I will quote part of your letters.

Jonothan writes 'everyone has their ups and downs in level of interest and commitment'. And he said to me: 'I hope the writing is proceeding, despite the lack of general support at this moment, I am sure it is just a period of certain conditions-- we must be ready when interest is renewed.' About this last remark, yes, I often feel 'For whom am I doing all this revision work on the Cetasikas, is there ever enough interest for people to read it, for whom am I writing?' On the other hand, conditions change all the time, and since it takes so long to finish it, better to continue in case there will be more ~~of~~ interest later on. There are conditions for me to continue and I also find when revising, for example sañña 'which remembers and marks' that I did not ~~yet~~ understand it enough. While revising I realize what was not clear yet and now it is a little clearer. I am better able to leave out what is complicated and insert another example from daily life and is this not more important, the examples from daily life? They are all realities which occur in daily life. As to ups and downs, there can be certain conditions which makes it very difficult to be always keen on Dhamma: a new, demanding job, a new kind of life one has to adapt oneself to. Still, what was once ~~learned~~ learnt is never forgotten, as ex-phra Philip wrote to me. The conditions for further development are carried on from moment to moment. But we all know how slowly pañña develops and that it takes more than one life.

The conditions here are such that sometimes someone visits me and likes to hear about the six doors and this again wakes me up. I then think 'Bless her, that she asks me this, it reminds me too the very moment I talk about these doors. She is doing me a great favour.' She had to wait for a taxi and I walked to the door and waited with her. There was a deafening noise of traffic and we just spoke about 'sound', what appears to the ears. And then we

do not mind the noise and the foul odours of the traffic. There are only six doors and objects through these doors. We can help others and ourselves most by taking examples from whatever situation of daily life.

When there is a down in our commitment it is already very helpful to realize that whatever happens is due to conditions, no self who can direct anything. I appreciate that you both apply this in your daily life.

Now I quote from Sarah's letter/ about her marriage:

'It really shows that one can make all ~~sort~~ sorts of wonderful plans and anything can happen. A year ago I was quite happy and determined to 'live' on my own and I was really excited to 'start' the job at London University...what I find more and more is that anything in my life related to the dhamma (or perhaps kusala cittas) works out so happily and so easily.. and anything else the reverse. The job turned out another disaster...It was a good experience to remember how badly I can react under stress and as Lodewijk (my husband, N.) has commented before, sati can seem a long, long way away at these times, especially if there is not enough detachment and patience with the various tendencies and if they are all taken for self. Patience with the akusala which is conditioned as well as with the kusala...who knows what the next situation will be? I kept remembering Khun Sujin's words 'what a waste of time it is to be unhappy when born as a manusia'. At the time, though, one is so involved in the situation and so much wants it to work out happily, that it is very hard to see any perspective. '

First a remark about being born as a manusia, a human being. When a human being there is opportunity to hear the Dhamma and develop understanding. The next life may not be in the human world, it may be a lower plane. How fortunate we are to have been able to listen to Khun Sujin who explains the Dhamma in the right way and always helps us to keep both feet on steady ground, not to imagine attainments one does not have, to understand conditions, also the ~~unndixkone~~ fact that akusala is conditioned. How fast the years go, how fast we get older, this in itself is a good reminder not to waste life with being unhappy. I will read this to Lodewijk.

You wrote: it is good to remember how badly I can react under ~~st~~ stress. But where is the stress from, from inside, not from the outward world. It is good to realize that we have accumulated ~~kn~~ lots of different tendencies, and when there is opportunity they come out in the form of akusala cittas.

Now your remark: one never knows what the next situation will be. Lodewijk asked me to point out to you that being married is

'For better and for worse' and also the worse should be stressed. There is old age coming on, with irritations and sickness. Not every day is so rosy, it is not always easy to be with someone when he has his moods, and we ourselves also have our moods. What a disappointments and bitterness we have seen around us, when marriages failed. It really takes an effort to make the most of it, to be considerate for the other, not to speak the harsh word which we want to speak, and often not hold it back. During vacation everything seems easy and enjoyable, but then there is daily life again with very hard work, the situation then is quite different, from the honeymoon time. It is good not to make illusions, to delude oneself about life.

I feel with you when you say Mum is delighted with all the preparations, while your reactions are rather mixed at all the fuss. So, I say: better a yellow writing paper (legal pad) than a wedding gown, you will remember my reaction when Lodewijk brought both the dress he had bought and the legal pad. What did the cittas do? Turned towards the paper. It is so funny to watch conditions.

Now I quote with appreciation:

'I hope to use the next month as much as possible to spend with friends here interested in the Dhamma, distribute materials... Understanding the Dhamma, helping others to understand also really becomes more and more the main commitment of my life, the one I think which in the end takes care of everything else, whatever the situation...'

Now I have read this I think your kusala cittas will help you in difficult situations, whatever it may be. We never know the future. I am sending all materials, all revisions to you and Jonothan and hope to get some response now and then. Now I quote on:

'I just had a letter from Malaysia asking for an article you had suggested to them I write. I will certainly try to do this in the next few weeks in between my extensive socialising... I really appreciate your letter to Allan about missing the Holland landscape and making the most (of everything)....'

Many I would like to hear more about your Dhamma discussions. About my life here: I have to speak in the Bahasa Indonesia about Dhamma for young children and students, receiving questions from them and I like it. My teacher is a real good help in training me. We should be able to express ourselves in all the languages of the world, the only way to have direct contact. Someone translated part of my book, but nuances got lost and his language is not quite so good. With the help of my Guru I correct all and this takes a lot of time, but it is useful. He will print it. Lots of parties in our house all the time. We go to Nepal from Nov. 20, arrive late in Bangkok at the Oriental, (Tai Air), meet us there for late supper if you can. Next morning on for the trek in Nepal, return to Bgk Dec